

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
AGRE-00 STR-07 INT-05 OES-07 DLOS-09 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 DOE-11 SOE-02 NRC-05 /120 W
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R 060825Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5843
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3621

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ETRD EFIS PEPR JA NZ AS
SUBJECT: SUZUKI VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

REF: A. WELLINGTON 1031; B. TOKYO 2766

SUMMARY: GOJ IS DISAPPOINTED THAT NEW ZEALAND LEADERS
REJECTED ALL OF FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER SUZUKI'S OFFERS
OF COMPROMISE TO BREAK STALEMATE OVER NEW ZEALAND DEMANDS
FOR GREATER ACCESS TO JAPANESE MARKET IN RETURN FOR ALLOWING
JAPAN TO FISH IN ITS 200-MILE ZONE. ALTHOUGH SUZUKI INVITED
GNZ LEADERS TO COME TO TOKYO TO CONTINUE TALKS, FURTHER
GIVE ON GOJ SIDE IS UNLIKELY, AND JAPANESE WILL PROBABLY
BE LOCKED OUT OF ZONE APRIL 1. SUZUKI'S TALKS IN
AUSTRALIA, AVOIDING HARD ISSUES, WENT WELL AND WERE
PLEASANT CONTRAST TO NEW ZEALAND PORTION OF JOURNEY, WHICH
CAUSED CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE HERE.
END SUMMARY.

1. GOJ SOURCES WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT GNZ REJECTED ALL
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OFFERS BY FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER ZENKO SUZUKI
DURING HIS FEBRUARY 19-23 VISIT TO WELLINGTON (REFTELS)
ESPECIALLY PROPOSAL THAT JAPAN BUY NEW ZEALAND SKIM MILK
POWDER AND BUTTER TO DONATE AS AID TO LDC'S. FONOFF
AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS ASSERTED SUZUKI TRIP
REPRESENTED SINCERE EFFORT TO FIND WAY TO END MARKET-
ACCESS-FOR-FISH STALEMATE. FONOFF OCEANIA DIVDEPDIR

TANAKA TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 27 THAT SUZUKI WAS PERSONALLY DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE HE HAD WORKED VERY HARD TO WIN ACCEPTANCE WITHIN GOJ (PARTICULARLY FINANCE MINISTRY) OF IDEA OF NEW ZEALAND DAIRY IMPORTS AS AID TO LDC'S.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS FEBRUARY 28, MINISTRY OF AGRICUTURE AND FORESTRY (MAF) PLANNING DIVDIR NAKASE SAID GOJ COULD NOT GIVE IN TO NEW ZEALAND REQUEST FOR INCREASED DAIRY IMPORTS BECAUSE OF CURRENT OVERSUPPLY IN JAPAN OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS. NAKASE NOTED THERE HAD BEEN INTRA-MINISTERIAL STRUGGLE ON THIS POINT, WITH FISHERIES AGENCY TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PERSUADE LIVESTOCK BUREAU (WHICH HANDLES DAIRY PRODUCTS) TO MAKE GREATER CONCESSIONS TO NEW ZEALANDERS. NAKASE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE FISHERIES AGENCY WAS UPSET WITH PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS, MAF AS A WHOLE WAS NOT.

3. FONOFF'S TANAKA SAID SUZUKI INVITED PM MULDOON AND DEPUTY PM TALBOYS TO COME TO JAPAN TO CONTINUE TALKS. NAKASE ADDED GOJ HAD NOT COMPLETELY GIVEN UP HOPE OF END TO STALEMATE, BUT THOUGHT GNZ ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA OF DAIRY PRODUCTS AS AID TO LDC'S SHOULD BE FIRST STEP. TANAKA THOUGHT JAPAN WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE AT PRESENT, AND STAY OUT OF NEW ZEALAND WATERS AFTER APRIL 1.

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4. IN CONTRAST TO WELLINGTON PORTION OF THIS TRIP, SUZUKI'S MUCH LESS SUBSTANTIVE VISIT TO AUSTRALIA WENT VERY WELL. ACCORDING TO TANAKA, BOTH PM FRASER AND DEPUTY PM ANTHONY EMPHASIZED "EXCELLENT" STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND AUSTRALIANS SAID JAPAN WOULD BE FIRST COUNTRY INVITED FOR NEGOTIATIONS OF AUSTRALIA'S 200-M MILE ZONE. KNOTTY ISSUES -- E.G., LEVEL OF COAL PURCHASE, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS -- WERE AVOIDED, TO BE TAKEN UP DURING ANTHONY'S VISIT TO JAPAN THIS MONTH.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM HERE THAT GNZ EFFORT TO USE FISHERIES ISSUE AS LEVER TO INCREASE JAPANESE IMPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND WILL PROVE INEFFECTUAL, SINCE NEQ ZEALAND WATERS ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN 2 PERCENT OF JAPAN'S OVERALL DISTANT-WATER CATCH. SUZUKI'S OFFERS PROBABLY BEING ALL GOJ PREPARED TO DO AT PRESENT, AND GIVEN FEELINGS OF GNZ EXPRESSED REF A, JAPAN IS LIKELY TO BE SHUT OUT OF NEW ZEALAND FISHERIES ZONE AFTER APRIL 1. IT WILL BE THAT MUCH HARDER TO MAKE A FRESH START IN LIGHT OF NEQ ZEALAND'S REACTION TO JAPANESE OFFER ON DAIRY IMPORTS AS "CONDESCENDING" AND "INSULTING"

(REF A). FROM JAPANESE POINT OF VIEW THERE IS NOTHING
PATRONIZING IN PURCHASING PRODUCTS OFF SHORE FOR AID
PROGRAMS; RATHER SUCH A MOVE IS CONSONANT WITH PRESSURES
FROM US AND OTHERS FOR MORE UNITED ODA THAT DOES NOT
IMMEDIATELY REVERT TO JAPANESE ACCOUNTS.
MANSFIELD

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